

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01284 242033Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3177

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1284

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF RETIRED ADMIRAL MILLER IN ASSESSMENT OF
DOMINICAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

1. RETIRED ADMIRAL MILLER RETURNED TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC A WEEK OR SO AGO TO DELIVER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER THE REPORT HE HAD PROMISED DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE AWARE OF THE REPORT'S CONTENT.

2. AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER, ADMIRAL MILLER INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR OF THE MEETING (HAVING FIRST INFORMED BALAGUER THAT HE WOULD DO SO). MILLER REPORTED THAT BALAGUER WENT OVER THE MAIN SUBSTANTIVE POINTS WITH HIM AND ENGAGED IN A COLLAGUY ON MILITARY CONCEPTS. BALAGUER SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE THE REPORT TRANSLATED, STUDY IT AND WOULD WISH TO SEE MILLER AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, BALAGUER ASKED THAT MILLER DISCUSS THE REPORT'S CONTENT WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ADMIRAL JIMENEZ AND WITH GENERAL PEREZ Y PEREZ, HEAD OF THE ARMY. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT AND INDICATED THAT HE DESIRED TO RETURN THIS WHOLE MATTER TO PROPER CHANNELS AS SOON AND AS GRACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE. MILLER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED.

3. ON MARCH 22, MILLER MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 01284 242033Z

HIM WITH A COPY OF THE REPORT, TO INFORM HIM OF THE RESULT

OF HIS TALKS WITH JIMENEZ AND PEREZ Y PEREZ, AND TO DISCUSS THE RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH BALAGUER THE DAY BEFORE. ACCORDING TO MILLER, BOTH JIMENEZ AND PEREZ Y PEREZ WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE REPORT AND HEARTENED BY THE PRESIDENT'S APPARENT INTEREST IN REFURBISHING THE ARMED FORCES. DURING THE MEETING WITH BALAGUER, THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT THE WHOLE PACKAGE WAS QUITE EXPENSIVE, BUT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO EXPLORE THE PURCHASE OF THESE ITEMS OF HARDWARE IF FINANCING COULD BE ARRANGED. THESE WERE:

(1) M-1 RIFLES, (2) UH-2 (HUEY) HELICOPTERS, AND (3) A-37B'S.

THE LAST, BALAGUER ACKNOWLEDGED WERE MORE PRESTIGE ITEMS THAN MILITARY NECESSITIES. BALAGUER IS APPARENTLY ALSO INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING A JET RANGER HELICOPTER FOR HIS PERSONAL USE (AS DEPT WILL RECALL HE HAD AN ACCIDENT IN HIS FRENCH ALOUETTE). MILLER SAID THAT HE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO ASK THE COLT, BELL AND CESSNA COMPANIES TO SEND RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO TALK ABOUT THE PURCHASE AND FINANCING OF THE ABOVE ITEMS. MILLER ALSO SAID THAT HE ALSO TOLD BALAGUER THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE COMPANIES WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CHECK IN WITH THE AMBASSADOR BEFORE CONTACTING ANY DOMINICAN OFFICIAL. MILLER HAD THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT BALAGUER INTENDED TO HANDLE THESE NEGOTIATIONS HIMSELF (TYPICALLY). MILLER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD BE HIS LAST INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER:

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH QUANTITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED, A REASONABLE EXTIMATE OF WHAT BALAGUER MIGHT HAVE IN MIND WOULD BE (1) ONE THOUSAND M-1S (APPROXIMATE COST OF \$200,000) TO SUPPLEMENT THE ONE THOUSAND BELGIAN FAL THAT WE UNDERSTAND ARE ALREADY ON ORDER; (2) FOUR HUEY'S AT APPROXIMATE COST OF \$500,000 EACH; AND (3) FOUR A-37B'S AT APPROXIMATE COST OF \$750,000 EACH FOR A TOTAL PACKAGE OF ABOUT \$5.2 MILLION.

5. DESPITE THE UNORTHODOXY OF THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH, ADMIRAL MILLER HAS HANDLED HIMSELF WELL AND HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH US. THE AMBASSADOR CAUTIONED HIM TO AVOID ANY ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT HARM HIS REPUTATION (ACCUSATIONS OF "ARMS PEDDLING" ETC.) AS WELL AS THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT VIOLATE U.S. LAW.

6. WE RECOGNIZE THE DESIRABILITY IN MANY INSTANCES OF PUTTING
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PAGE 03 SANTO 01284 242033Z

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING ARMS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH U.S. SUPPLIERS, WITH A MINIMUM, IF ANY OF USG INVOLVEMENT. THIS MAY BE SUCH A CASE. NONETHELESS, THIS IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD MATTER THAT SHOULD RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO NORMAL CHANNELS. WE HAVE A VERY COMPETENT MAAG AND OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GODR AT ALL LEVELS ARE EXCELLENT. WE WOULD THEREFORE REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES INVOLVED ASSIST US BY ENSURING THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS (VISITS, CORRESPONDENCE,

ETC.) BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY. FOR OUR PART, WE
SHALL ALSO BE WORKING TOWARD GETTING THIS BACK ON THE TRACKS,
WITHOUT RUFFLING LOCAL SENSITIVITIES.
HURWITCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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